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Letter dated 2 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a joint communiqué by the Governments of the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Rwanda, concerning the convening and outcome of the Rwanda/Uganda Joint Permanent Commission, held in Kampala on 21 and 22 November 2002 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Matia Mulumba **Semakula Kiwanuka**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 2 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint communiqué

1. At the invitation of the Republic of Uganda, the Rwanda/Uganda Joint Permanent Commission convened in Kampala on 21 and 22 November 2002. The Rwanda delegation was led by H.E. Dr. Charles Murigande, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation. The Uganda delegation was led by Hon. J. F. Wapakabulo, Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Both leaders of delegation were accompanied by Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and other senior officials.

2. The Joint Permanent Commission reviewed the various areas of cooperation between the two countries. These included cooperation in trade, industry and tourism; customs and finance; border security and immigration; health; refugees and asylum-seekers; education; energy; transport and communications; gender and women in development; public service and labour; as well as agriculture and livestock.

3. The two delegations were satisfied that the recent measures put in place, including regular contacts at the highest level, have brought about an atmosphere of confidence to restore bilateral relations to the highest extent possible. Consequently, cooperation in the various fields was progressively being normalized.

4. To buttress the achievements so far, the Joint Permanent Commission agreed as follows:

(a) Established a Joint Technical Subcommittee to study in detail and propose, within three months, modalities for the orderly flow of trade activities across the border;

(b) Agreed to intensify cooperation and contacts in the areas of customs and finance, including the regular sharing of experience and information;

(c) Directed the immediate resumption of regular meetings by border authorities to address local issues from time to time;

(d) Established a committee composed of representatives from Rwanda and Uganda, in collaboration with UNHCR, to discuss and operationalize modalities for encouraging and promoting the voluntary repatriation of Rwandese refugees in Uganda;

(e) Agreed to review the memorandum of understanding on cooperation in education, which has expired, taking into account the policy reforms in education that have happened in the two countries;

(f) Agreed to promote the Mbarara/Gikondo double circuit transmission project as a regional one for the supply of additional electricity to Rwanda;

(g) Agreed to harmonize and enforce implementation of road safety measures, including speed limits and other traffic regulations along the northern corridor road system;

(h) Encouraged the current cooperation mechanisms in the areas of security;

(i) Established a Joint Technical Committee to work out and propose appropriate mechanisms to address the status of Ugandan artisans working in Rwanda;

(j) Agreed to share experience and information on police activities, empowerment of women, public service reform, transboundary diseases and communications.

5. The two delegations emphasized the need to promote regional cooperation and integration as an avenue for faster growth and development for their two countries.

6. On security, generally, they underscored their two countries' commitment to peace and security both at the bilateral and regional levels. In this respect, the two delegations undertook to exchange information on any dissident groups and asylum-seekers that pose a danger to bilateral and regional cooperation.

7. The Rwanda delegation thanked the Ugandan Government for hosting the hospitality extended to it during its stay in Uganda.

8. The next meeting of the Joint Permanent Commission will be held in Rwanda at a date to be agreed through the normal diplomatic channels.

Done at Kampala on 22 November 2002.

For the Republic of Rwanda:
(*Signed*) Hon. Dr. Charles **Murigande**
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation

For the Republic of Uganda:
(*Signed*) Hon. J. F. **Wapakabulo**
Third Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Foreign Affairs